

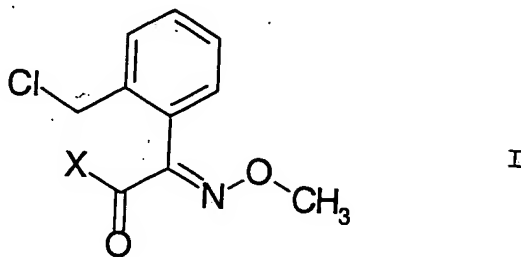
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5 (Cancelled)

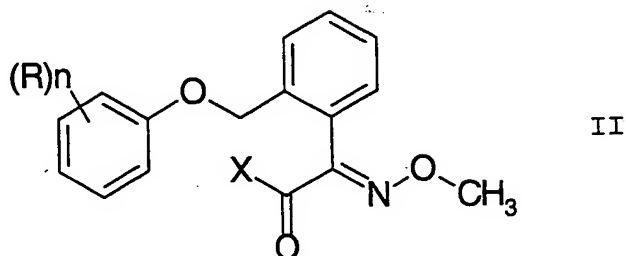
6. (New) A process for preparing a 2-(chloromethyl) phenylacetic acid derivative of formula I,



where X is C1-C4-alkoxy or methylamino,

said process comprising

either cleaving a compound of formula II,



where R is C1-C4-alkyl, C1-C4-alkoxy, C1-C2-haloalkyl, C1-C4-alkylcarbonyl, C1-C4-alkylcarbonyloxy, halogen, nitro or cyano and X is as defined above, with hydrogen chloride, in the presence of an inert solvent and a catalyst.

7. (New) The process of claim 6 wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of iron, indium and halides, oxides and triflates thereof.

8. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said catalyst is iron (III) chloride.

9. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said catalyst is iron.

10. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said catalyst is indium (III) chloride.

11. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said catalyst is iron (III) oxide.

12. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said catalyst has a concentration in the components of the ether cleaving reaction of about 0.001 to 0.5 mol equivalents.

13. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said catalyst has a concentration in the components of the ether cleaving reaction of about 0.01 to 0.2 mol equivalents.

14. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said hydrogen chloride has a concentration in the components of the ether cleaving reaction of about 1 to 25 mol equivalents.
15. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said hydrogen chloride has a concentration in the components of the ether cleaving reaction of about 1 to 10 mol equivalents.
16. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said hydrogen chloride has a concentration in the components of the ether cleaving reaction of about 3 to 5 mol equivalents.
17. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said inert solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon.
18. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein said inert solvent is an aliphatic (halogenated) hydrocarbon.
19. (New) The process of claim 6 wherein said hydrogen chloride is passed into the ether cleaving reaction mixture in gaseous form.
20. (New) The process of claim 6 wherein said hydrogen chloride is condensed into said ether cleaving reaction.

21. (New) The process of claim 6 further comprising adding at least one Lewis base to the said ether cleaving reaction.
22. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein said Lewis base is pyridine.
23. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein said Lewis base is N,N-dimethylaniline.
24. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein said Lewis base is ethanethiol.
25. (New) The process of claim 6 further comprising adding trimethylsilyl chloride to said ether cleaving reaction.
26. (New) The process of claim 6 further comprising conducting said ether cleaving reaction in a biphasic system in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst.
27. (New) The process of claim 6 further comprising performing said ether cleaving reaction under a protective gas atmosphere.
28. (New) The process of claim 6 wherein said ether cleaving reaction temperature is between about 0 to 100°C.

29. (New) The process of claim 6 wherein said ether cleaving reaction temperature is between about 30 to 70°C.

30. (New) The process of claim 6 wherein said ether cleaving reaction pressure is from about 0 to 6 bar.

31. (New) The process of claim 6 wherein said ether cleaving reaction pressure is atmospheric pressure.